

plates of selected species; unfortunately these are less well produced and there is no indication of the scale of the specimens illustrated.

Part three comprises a glossary, bibliography, a guide to genitalic dissection, a set of distribution maps and locality data, and finally, a very complete index. The book should appeal, not only to those specifically interested in American lepidoptera, but also to European butterfly enthusiasts who will recognise several familiar species in forms virtually identical to those found in the Western Palaearctic region. Examples of these are *Parnassius phoebus* F., *Colias palaeno* L., *Clossiana titania* Esp. and *Carterocephalus palaemon* Pall. For anyone actually contemplating a trip to the Rockies, the book should both stimulate interest and also provide an essential identification guide. — C. J. LUCKENS.

## Notes and Observations

LARVAE OF THE BUFF-TIP: PHALERA BUCEPHALA L. FEEDING ON SORBUS SPECIES [ROSACEAE] AND ASPEN. — On September 20th, 1979, near the centre of Maidstone I noticed that most of about a dozen trees of *Sorbus aria*, cultivar *lutescens*, had small branches defoliated by *bucephala* larvae, although probably few pupated as the bole of each tree was surrounded by asphalt and a very limited amount of compacted soil. On August 5th, 1976, near Ballintra in Co. Donegal, a colony of these larvae was found upon rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). *Bucephala* larvae seem not to have been recorded on *Sorbus* species previously, and there are very few instances for the Rosaceae in general — Wilson, *Larvae of the British Lepidoptera and their Food Plants* (1880), mentions rose, and in *The Lepidoptera of Kent* by J. M. Chalmers-Hunt are records for apple at Petts Wood and cherry at Sittingbourne.

Noted foodplants such as laurel, *Tropaelium major*, rose, maple, sycamore, hornbeam, horse chestnut, evergreen oak and alder are, I believe, distinctly unusual, and beech perhaps somewhat less so. On September 15th, 1963, a colony of these larvae was found on aspen at Dungeness, and another at Dartford on September 10th, 1966 was also on aspen. I can find no previous record of this species on aspen.

E. Newman in his *Natural History of the British Moths* (1869), gives only elm, lime, hazel and other trees, stating that the species is a very general feeder. R. South in *Moths of the British Isles* (1939 ed.) stated that almost any kind of tree or bush appears to be suitable food, although the foliage of elm, lime and hazel is often selected (copied from Newman?). In *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol. 9 (1979), ed. J. Heath, the food-plant is stated to be deciduous trees such as oak, willow, elm, hazel and lime.

This moth has a wide distribution in the British Isles, and my observations indicate that it has distinct preferences, plus an adaptability to turn to alternative foodplants when the more favoured ones are scarce or absent. Thus in the urban parts of N.W. Kent there has been a very marked preference for lime and black